



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,973	01/16/2004	James Stoffer	2416.001US1	6511
21186 7590 09/24/2007 SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			EXAMINER FEELY, MICHAEL J	
			ART UNIT 1712	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,973

Applicant(s)

STOFFER ET AL.

Examiner

Michael J. Feely

Art Unit

1712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,9-28,38-48,56,63-98,100-104,112,113,115-120 and 123-150 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 119 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20070629.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims withdrawn from consideration are 2,9-13,15,21-23,42-44,64,73,82,88,93,94,97,98,112,118 and 128-130.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims rejected are 1,4,6,14,16-20,24-28,38-41,46-48,56,63,65-72,74-81,83-87,89-92,95,96,100-104,113,115-117,120,123-127 and 131-150.

DETAILED ACTION

Pending Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-28, 38-48, 56, 63-98, 100-104, 112, 113, 115-120, and 123-150 are pending.

Of these, claims 2, 9-13, 15, 21-23, 42-44, 64, 73, 82, 88, 93, 94, 97, 98, 112, 118, and 128-130

are withdrawn from consideration.

Response to Amendment

1. The objection to claim 120 has been overcome by amendment.
2. The rejection of claim 99 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murase et al. (JP 01-319574) has been rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim.
3. The rejection of claims 1, 14, 16-20, 28, 63, 67-71, 92, 95, 96, 102, 113, 125-127, 134, 139, and 141 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murase et al. (JP 01-319574) has been overcome by amendment.
4. The rejection of claims 100 and 147 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Murase et al. (JP 01-319574) has been overcome by amendment.
5. The indicated allowability of claims 3, 4, 6, 49, 65, 72, 81, 87, 101, 103, 124, 140, and 145 is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

Art Unit: 1712

pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 1, 4, 6, 14, 16-20, 24-28, 38-41, 46-48, 56, 63, 65-72, 74-81, 83-87, 89-92, 95, 96, 100-104, 113, 115-117, 120, 123-127, and 131-150 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for *inorganic extender pigments*, does not reasonably provide enablement for *any extender*. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The claimed *extender* does not include *extenders* such as organic chain extenders. It only appears to be supported by *inorganic extender pigments*.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

9. Claims 1, 14, 16, 18-20, 24-26, 28, 63, 67, 70, 71, 96, 102, 115, 116, 120, 125, 134, 139, 141, and 145 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boyd et al. (US Pat. No. 5,871,839).

Boyd et al. disclose: the instantly claimed coating composition of claims 1, 14, 16, 18-20, 24-26, 28, 115, 116, 120, 125, and 134; the instantly claimed coating system of claims 63, 67, 70, 71, 141, and 145; the instantly claimed coating method of claims 96 and 102; and the instantly claimed preparation method of claim 139. The details regarding the *carbon pigments* are set forth in column 5, lines 54-67. The details regarding the *extenders* are set forth in column

Art Unit: 1712

6, line 36 through column 7, line 14. The details regarding the *binders* are set forth in column 6, lines 13-35. The details regarding the *substrate* are set forth in column 5, lines 39-53.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

10. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

11. Claims 68, 69, 100, 126, 127, and 147 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Boyd et al. (US Pat. No. 5,871,839).

Regarding claims 68, 69, 100, and 147, these claims feature product-by-process limitations. Claim 100 is a method claim featuring a pre-treated substrate, wherein the pretreatment (product-by-process) is open to (*non-chemical*) procedures such as washing. In light of this, it has been found that, “[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process.” *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Therefore, regardless of the non-chemical pre-treatment, method of curing, and method of coating, it appears that the method and coated substrate of Boyd et al. would have inherently or obviously satisfied the instantly claimed method and coated substrate.

Art Unit: 1712

Regarding claims 126 and 127, the prior art discusses the instantly claimed ASTM test; however, they do not explicitly set forth the instantly claimed results. Regardless, it appears that these limitations would have been inherently satisfied because all of the instantly claimed chemical/material limitations are satisfied by the prior art – *see MPEP 2112.01*.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. Claims 17, 27, 113, 117, and 131-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyd et al. (US Pat. No. 5,871,839).

Regarding claims 17, 27, 113, 131, and 132, Boyd et al. does not explicitly set forth these instantly claimed ranges. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that these quantities are result-effective variables used to tailor a variety of properties, including conductivity, mechanical strength, and corrosion resistance. In light of this, it has been found that the optimization of a result-effective variable is *prima facie* obvious in the absence of unexpected results – *see MPEP 2144.05*.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to optimize the amount of carbon and extender in Boyd et al. because the skilled artisan would have recognized that these quantities are result-effective variables used to tailor a variety of properties, including conductivity, mechanical strength, and corrosion resistance.

Regarding claims 117 and 133, Boyd et al. do not explicitly disclose these instantly claimed extender materials. However, they disclose, “In addition to the species of inorganic inhibitors listed above, one skilled in the art can readily identify without undue experimentation other suitable inorganic inhibitor species by any of the aforementioned tests,” (*see column 7*,

Art Unit: 1712

lines 62-65). Based on the similarities between the instantly claimed materials and the listed species, it appears that these instantly claimed materials would have fallen within this group of obvious inorganic inhibitors.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the instantly claimed extenders in Boyd et al. because Boyd et al. is open to additional inorganic materials that are chemically analogous to their listed inhibitors (extenders).

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 5 and 119 are allowed

14. Claims 45 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

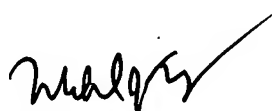
Art Unit: 1712

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Feely whose telephone number is 571-272-1086. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski can be reached on 571-272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Michael J. Feely
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1712

September 17, 2007

**MICHAEL FEELY
PRIMARY EXAMINER**